

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE,
Washington, DC, April 16, 2008.

Hon. ROBERT C. BYRD
President Pro Tempore, U.S. Senate, Hart Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR BYRD: Section 304(b)(1) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA), 2 U.S.C. 1384(b)(1), requires that, with regard to the initial proposal of substantive regulations under the CAA, the Board "shall publish a general notice of proposed rulemaking" and "shall transmit such notice to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate for publication in the Congressional Record on the first day on which both Houses are in session following such transmittal."

The Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance is transmitting herewith the enclosed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The Board requests that the accompanying Notice be published in both the House and Senate versions of the Congressional Record on the first day on which both Houses are in session following receipt of this transmittal.

Any inquiries regarding the accompanying Notice should be addressed to Tamara E. Chrisler, Executive Director of the Office of Compliance, 110 2nd Street, S.E., Room LA-200, Washington, D.C. 20540; 202-724-9250, TDD 202-426-1912, tcbr@loc.gov.

Sincerely,

SUSAN S. ROBFOGEL,
Chair, Board of Directors.

(Editor's note: The notice of Proposed Rulemaking is printed in the RECORD dated April 21, 2008, at page S3188)

BURMA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in these last days our sympathies have been stirred by the shocking images of suffering and loss that have come from Burma. Last week's cyclone was one of the most devastating in memory. The damage to Burma's infrastructure, to its cities and towns and villages, is staggering.

The human toll won't be known for weeks. As many as 100,000 are thought to be dead. Thousands more are unaccounted for and injured. And those who survived face grave challenges. By all accounts, potable water and food are scarce, increasing the threat of disease. And shelter is hard to find.

This kind of suffering tests our powers of comprehension. But the extent of the damage, combined with the already primitive economic conditions imposed by the Burmese regime and the regime's sluggish response to the storm, means this suffering will be far greater than it otherwise might have been and will last far longer than it otherwise would.

We have heard reports that little or no notice was given to the people about the severity of the storm. And while the U.S. and other donors have expressed a clear willingness to assist, the Burmese regime has continued to resist allowing outside donors, such as the U.S., in.

The U.S. has repeatedly demonstrated its willingness to help the

victims of natural disasters. Our generous response to the 2004 tsunami is a tribute to generosity and compassion of Americans, as was our response to the flooding of Bangladesh in the early 1990s. We responded generously to the 1990 earthquake in the Philippines, an act of kindness that was met with deep gratitude. The U.S. has helped this region of the world again and again, and now we stand willing to help the people of Burma.

Precious time has been, and continues to be, wasted. Why? Because rather than focusing on preparations for the storm, the political leaders in Burma were focused on a sham constitutional referendum scheduled for this Saturday. While all of the energies of government were needed to prepare for relief efforts, the regime was thinking of solidifying its control over the country. Its only concession to the critics—as the extent of the dead, the missing, and the injured became known—was an agreement to postpone the referendum in certain parts of the country.

This is not the first time the Burmese regime has put the political risks of letting in outsiders over urgent humanitarian needs. In 2004, the same junta rejected foreign aid after the tsunami. The only difference this time is that the devastation to Burma and the Burmese people is on a much larger scale.

If Saturday's referendum were legitimate, its timing would be merely irresponsible and crass. Yet everything about this Saturday's referendum is a farce. The process leading up to it has been marked by oppressive measures that, of course, are not typically associated with free and open political debate. It's a crime, for instance, to criticize the document.

The substance of the constitution is also profoundly antidemocratic. It prohibits Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the party that won Burma's last free and democratic election, from holding high office. Former political prisoners and activists could find themselves unable to run for Parliament. And the Burmese military would control key ministries and hold a quarter of the seats in the national legislature.

This is not a constitution. This is a fig leaf to place over the junta's oppressive rule.

The people of Burma are already suffering from the tragedy of a terrible natural disaster. Now they are being forced to participate in a farce. Last week's cyclone revealed more than nature's power and life's fragility. It revealed, once again, the inhumanity of Burmese junta—not only in its disregard for the people suffering from the storm, but also in its callous insistence that, in the midst of so much suffering, a sham constitutional referendum validating its authority go forward.

This is a time of great sadness in Burma. It is also a time of renewed outrage at the oppressive regime that controls it. On occasion, the leaders of

such regimes reveal their warped minds to the world. This is such a time. It's my hope the world will take notice.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to address the terrible toll taken by the recent cyclone in Burma.

It is unimaginable to me that the people of Burma, already struggling under the weight of tyranny, could be expected to bear further hardship. The daily trudge for existence faced by the Burmese is heart-wrenching; and yet now their suffering has increased. On Saturday, May 3, their country was struck by a horrible cyclone, an unfortunately common occurrence in Southeast Asia. U.S. diplomats estimate the death toll from this storm could be as high as 100,000, victims of a 120 mph wind and a storm surge that has obliterated entire villages. The United Nations estimates that hundreds of thousands of people have been left without basic necessities such as food, potable water, and shelter.

The Burmese military regime has compounded this crisis through political repression, economic mismanagement, and xenophobia. But the tragedy of Burma's government cannot and should not blind us to the human suffering inflicted by this most recent disaster. The international community must take immediate steps to alleviate some of the worst deprivations of this humanitarian crisis. To this end, I am proud and humbled that two of our own Oregon institutions are leading the effort in bringing comfort to the afflicted. Northwest Medical Teams and Mercy Corps are closely engaged in collecting humanitarian donations and cooperating with local partners to help the survivors in Burma. I urge the government in Burma to accept the foreign assistance offered by these groups and others around the world.

I know I speak for all Oregonians—and indeed all Americans—when I say that our hearts go out to the survivors of this storm. We stand ready to help, and I sincerely thank all those who are donating their time and resources to help those stricken by this terrible disaster.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT GLEN E. MARTINEZ

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Marine Sgt Glen Martinez and to share my deep sadness at the loss of one of our Nation's finest young men. Sergeant Martinez was on his second tour in Iraq, working to restore peace and security to Al Anbar province, when a roadside bomb tore through his vehicle, killing him and three other marines. He was 31 years old.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sergeant Martinez's wife Melissa, his parents Ron and Carol, his sister Lori, and her children Alexis and Spencer, his grandparents Isaac and Viola Martinez and Willard and Norma Martin, and all his friends and family. My heart also goes out to the community

of Monte Vista, CO, a small town in the San Luis Valley not far from my family's ranch. The close-knit community, where everyone is a neighbor, has lost a favorite son.

There was nothing, it seemed, that Glen Martinez couldn't do. In high school, he was a top student, a gifted musician, and a star athlete. He was the quarterback of the Monte Vista football team, competed for the State championship in wrestling, and led his baseball team. With college scholarship offers to choose from in all three sports, Glen accepted an academic and baseball scholarship at Ottawa University in Ottawa, KS. He graduated with a degree in mathematics in 2000, but continued his studies at Westwood College and then at the University of Colorado, in Boulder, where he took up a master's program in land surveying.

At each step, Glen earned honors, awards, and the admiration of those he met. He is remembered for his contagious smile, boundless energy, and a heart committed to service. In 2004, while living in Boulder, Glen determined he had an obligation to serve his country, and that he could contribute most by enlisting in the Marines. By donning the uniform, he joined a proud family tradition of service and followed in the footsteps of both his grandfathers, who served in World War II, and his father Ron, who was in the Air Force during the Vietnam war.

In the Marines, Glen quickly became a leader among those he served. He was a member of Combat Logistics Battalion-1, Combat Logistics Regiment-1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, out of Camp Pendleton. He rose rapidly to the rank of sergeant and, as with everything he did, earned recognition and awards for the quality of his service. He served with his wife Sgt Melissa Martinez, whom he met while training at Camp Pendleton. When Glen was killed, they were both in Al Anbar province, as part of an effort to keep the lid on the violence that once made the area among the most dangerous in Iraq.

It is hard to measure all that inspired Sergeant Martinez's service. He had a deep-rooted pride for his country and his community. He sensed an obligation to offer his talents to a cause greater than his own. And he was determined to rise to every challenge presented.

He shared what so many of our nation's great servicemembers and great leaders share—the sense, as President Woodrow Wilson described it, that “the fortunes of a nation are confided to us.”

As World War I raged in Europe, President Wilson told the 1916 class at Annapolis that meeting this “special obligation” is perilous and difficult, but it also carries the highest reward: the honor and affection of their fellow citizens.

“You are going to live your lives under the most stimulating compulsion that any man can feel,” President Wil-

son told the graduates, “the sense, not of private duty merely, but of public duty also. And then if you perform that duty, there is a reward awaiting you which is superior to any other reward in the world. That is the affectionate remembrance of your fellow men—their honor, their affection. No man could wish for more than that or find anything higher than that to strive for. . . . I wish you Godspeed, and remind you that yours is the honor of the United States.”

Sergeant Martinez answered the call of his country with the dignity and honor President Woodrow Wilson extolled. Loved and respected by those with whom he served, his optimism and leadership could lift and inspire even in the most difficult circumstances. He was an irrepressible spirit and an extraordinary professional.

Sgt Glen Martinez's achievements in life are matched only by the depth of his sacrifice—and the void he leaves behind. To Glen's family and friends, I know no words that can ease the pain you feel. I hope that in time you will find consolation in your pride in Glen's service and in the knowledge that his country and his community are eternally grateful for all that he gave. He has honored the United States, and the United States will always honor him.

SPECIALIST RONALD J. TUCKER

Mr. President, I also rise today to honor the life and service of Army Specialist Ronald J. Tucker, of Fountain, CO. Specialist Tucker was killed in Baghdad last week, at the age of 21, when a bomb exploded near his patrol. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, out of Fort Hood, TX.

Specialist Tucker grew up in the Pikes Peak region of Colorado and was a graduate of Fountain-Fort Carson High School. He was a hard-working, smart, good-humored young man with hopes of serving his country. In school, he devoted himself to his studies, but shared laughs and jokes with friends and teachers.

Ronald joined the Army just a few days after his 2005 graduation from high school. He trained to be a mortarman and, in 2006, was assigned to Fort Hood. He deployed earlier this year and was serving as an indirect fire infantryman in a unit that was working to calm the violence that has escalated in Baghdad over the last several weeks. Specialist Tucker worked tirelessly, courageously, and professionally to help bring calm to streets teeming with ethnic violence and to allow the Iraqi people to hope again.

Specialist Tucker followed in the footsteps of so many American soldiers who have honored their country with their service, and who General Douglas MacArthur regaled in a 1962 address to West Point soldiers for their selfless sacrifices and for their unflinching devotion to the protection of our Nation. “Duty, honor, country,” MacArthur told the young soldiers, “Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what

you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be.”

These three words have been the creed of generation after generation of American soldiers. They help us understand the courage and fortitude of men like Ronald Tucker, who deployed thousands of miles from his family, lived in constant peril, and shouldered the responsibility for keeping other soldiers safe while securing a brighter future for Iraqi citizens.

Duty, honor, country. “The code which those words perpetuate,” said General MacArthur, “embraces the highest moral law and will stand the test of any ethics or philosophies ever promulgated for the things that are right and its restraints are from the things that are wrong. The soldier, above all other men, is required to practice the greatest act of religious training—sacrifice . . . However hard the incidents of war may be, the soldier who is called upon to offer and to give his life for his country is the noblest development of mankind.”

Specialist Ronald Tucker embodied this creed: He donned the soldier's uniform at his first opportunity, he bravely entered the battlefield, and he offered and gave his life in service to his country. His is a debt we cannot repay.

To Ronald's mother Susan, his stepfather David, and to all his family and friends, I know no words that can ease the pain you are feeling. I hope that in time, however, the joy Ronald brought to all who knew him and your pride in his service will provide comfort and consolation. His country will always honor his sacrifice.

THE MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would strengthen and add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate violent crime that has occurred in our country.

On the night of April 4, 2008, a 17-year-old Black man was traveling by bus from Wilmington, DE, to New Castle, DE, when three White men engaged him in a physical altercation. David and Lloyd Walker, 27 and 23 years old respectively, were identified by witnesses and arrested, but their accomplice, known only as “Ritchie,” is still at large. According to police, the three men began to argue with the young man when he complained that they were bumping into him. When the 17-year-old man got off the bus, the three men followed and attacked him, yelling racial slurs and threatening to kill him. Police say David Walker stabbed the teen five times in the back, puncturing one of his lungs and inflicting more stab wounds on his forearm.